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ment nor the tremendous problems involved in its successful administration. For instance, he warns the English proletariat that any effort to limit productivity can spell only disaster. This does not necessarily involve any painful or injurious intensification of toil; it may be accomplished by improved organization of labor and of industrial management generally. In no other way can the masses hope for a permanently improved standard of living. Statistics are presented which show that the pre-war income of England if equally distributed would not suffice to give the average family "the full requirements of a civilized modern life" (p. 173). Hobson argues that owing to the great destruction of capital during the war the national income after the war will be lower than ever.

In the reviewer's opinion *Democracy After The War* may be compared not unfavorably with Veblen's *The Nature of Peace*. It shows quite as keen an insight into human nature and social processes; and it is broader in its scope, containing much more in the way of constructive suggestion. The book deserves the widest reading in this country from the standpoint of its cultural value as well as its application to the problems of economic and social reconstruction which now confront the American democracy.

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Economic and Social History of Chowan County, North Carolina, 1880-1915. By W. SCOTT BOYCE. Columbia University Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law, Vol. LXXVI, No. 1; Whole No. 179. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1917. Pp. 293. \$2.50.)

Chowan County was one of the original precincts of the Lords Proprietors, but was settled prior to the granting of the charter of 1663. Its county seat and only town is Edenton, one of the oldest communities in North Carolina, and one which has contributed a body of men of eminence in state and nation out of all proportion to its population. For more than a century it was not only the center of the political and intellectual life of that section of North Carolina, but was also its most important town, having only in later years been distanced by Elizabeth City. Since 1800 the county has had a negro majority and its whole history has been greatly influenced thereby. The chief occupation is and has always been agriculture. Fishing comes next with lum-

bering and manufacturing well down the scale of relative importance. In all respects it is a fairly typical county of the section of the state in which it lies.

This sizable monograph is by a native of Chowan County and is in part based upon his own experience and observation. It is divided into four parts. The first consists of two chapters dealing with the physical characteristics and the population of the county. The second part, called *Development of Economic Life*, contains eleven comparative chapters on agriculture, fishing, manufacturing, lumbering, transportation, and labor and wages in the eighties and in 1915. The third part, called *Development of Social Life*, contains eight similar comparative chapters on education, social customs, the churches, sanitation and hygiene, and necessities and comforts. The fourth part is devoted to *Conclusions*. An appendix contains twenty-four tables, compiled in part from census reports and in part from the author's own calculations, which are used as a basis for much of the discussion in the body of the work.

The chief value of the book lies in its preservation of knowledge of many habits and customs of the people which are now disappearing, and in the material contained in the chapters on fishing, lumbering, communication and transportation, and wages and labor. As a complete study of the scope indicated in the title the book is distinctly disappointing as to form, content, method, and tone. It may well be questioned if the social and economic history of one small county for a period of thirty-five years is a suitable subject for so extended a study, but even if an affirmative answer be given, the volume under discussion is scarcely justified. It is not a social and economic history of Chowan County for the period named, but is rather a rough contrast of conditions at the beginning and end of the period, containing a great amount of material bearing upon the questions under discussion, some of it of value, but a large part of it of small importance. Much of it is inaccurate as well. The thesis of the work, if it may be said to have any, is that conditions were hopelessly bad at the beginning of the period, that they are very bad today, but that some improvement may be noticed along nearly all economic and social lines.

Conditions in 1880 are painted as very dark—in many respects darker than they really were—and there is no convincing interpretation of the causes. In spite of an elaborate argument to prove

that the year 1880 was a normal one, with an implication that benefit had already come from the Civil War, any one who is familiar with conditions at that time knows that, however much the state was ultimately to profit from the abolition of slavery, there was still widespread depression which touched all classes of the people and all activities of life. There is little if any appreciation of the influence of a negro majority, potent as that influence has been and clearly as it appears in his recital.

Throughout there is a marked tendency to sweeping generalizations. For example, only in rare instances is any distinction made between black and white, and while a majority of the population is colored, it nevertheless remains a fact that whatever may be the value as a statistical study of a work which fails to make a clear distinction between the races, it is certainly of small value as history. In the same way, Edenton, with from 23 to 30 per cent of the population of the county, is rarely excepted from statements which cannot possibly apply when it is included. In the chapter on agriculture the author displays an apparent ignorance of the fact that the county contains some very rich lands and that for generations it has had a group of farmers known all over eastern North Carolina for their skill, progressiveness, and success. An example of the absurdities which are frequent is seen in the statement (p. 158) that the principal light in the homes of the county during the eighties was furnished by lightwood knots! It is impossible in limited space to enumerate the examples of such errors.

The tone of the book is highly critical, as much so as the method is uncritical, and in many places it is sneering. Particularly do the religious beliefs and practices fall under the ban of an assured condemnation. The tone is so prevalent that one cannot read the chapters on manufacturing in the eighties and in 1915, in the former of which the author shows the capacity for self-maintenance of the people in a bitterly trying time and closes with a poor and labored imitation of Helper's famous epitome of Southern economic dependence, without feeling that in the writer's opinion such self-support was little short of a crime. The sneering tone is emphasized by constant employment of slang which makes a most unpleasant impression upon the reader.

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